

# How a materials recovery facility works

## UNLOADING AND SORTING

Mixed recycling is unloaded onto the tipping floor at the MRF. A front loader moves it onto a conveyor belt.

Employees manually pick out non-recyclable and bulky items that contaminate the recyclable material.

## CARDBOARD AND PAPER

1 Rotating discs propel cardboard over the top while other materials fall through for further separation.

2 Two-dimensional objects (paper) are separated. Heavier, three-dimensional containers fall to the next step.

Cardboard

Aluminum

Steel

Paper

## GLASS

5 Glass bottles and jars are picked out and broken into 2-inch or smaller pieces.

Glass

## METALS

3 Electromagnets collect steel items like food cans, and other ferrous metals.

4 An eddy current separator repels aluminum cans and other non-ferrous metal into a separate stream.

## PLASTICS

6 Optical scanners separate plastic by polymer type.

Plastics

## MATERIALS RECYCLING

Five types of recyclables (cardboard, paper, steel, aluminum and plastic) are compacted into bales and sent to be processed and manufactured into new products.